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TWO-THIRDS OF BERLIN CAPTURED BY RED ARMY

Stalin Bares that Encirclement Of Reich Capital Completed by Soviets

Domei

ZURICH, April 25.—Fresh squalls of steel and flame were today sweeping Berlin as the Red Army concentrated close-range mortar fire on vital districts of the capital and Marshal Zhukov's men have struck southward across the Spree as well as westward after storming the main line terminus of Schlesischer Bahnhof a mile from the business heart of Berlin.

The Germans are reported to be making their eleventh hour bid. It is learned that whole streets in Berlin have been reduced to mass wreckage after most savage hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets, tommy-guns and even chunks of steel and stone snatched from ruins of blasted buildings.

An AP dispatch said that the Soviets by today had captured two-thirds of the capital and that the eastern half of the heart of the city has fallen into Soviet hands.

Meanwhile, it is believed that the Germans might hold out longer in Denmark and Norway and reports of German forces being observed moving to Denmark caused speculation that the Germans are planning their last-ditch defense there.

Meanwhile, Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day said that Berlin has been encircled by the Red Army, according to a Moscow dispatch. The Order of the Day, which was addressed to Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Konev said that troops of the 1st White Russian command have cut all the roads leading to and from Berlin to the west and today linked up with troops of the 1st Ukrainian Army northwest of Potsdam thus completing the full encirclement of Berlin.

Moscow also announced tonight that the Red Army has reached the Elbe northwest of Dresden.

Berchtesgaden Bombed

Domei

STOCKHOLM, April. 25.—More than 250 Liberators of the U.S. 8th Air Force attacked four railway targets in Germany today near Berchtesgaden, Fuehrer Hitler's mountain retreat, according to a London dispatch. Targets were Trautstein, Salzburg, Hallein and Bad Reichenall, 15 miles northwest of Berchtesgaden.

Accompanying them were 350 Lancasters which bombed Berchtesgaden twice today with six-ton bombs.

Despite the fact that the Fuehrer is at present believed to be in Berlin and despite rumors that he had been severely wounded while directing operations, the British air force carried out these bombings on the assumption that he is in these Berchtesgaden mountains. The British Air Ministry moreover announced today that according to photographs taken of the bombing "hits were observed on Hitler's mountain refuge and barracks."

Another London report said that more than 550 Flying Fortresses and Liberators today attacked the Skoda armament works and the airfield at Pilsen in Czechoslovakia as well as rail targets in Germany. They were escorted by about 500 Mustangs.

The great Skoda works is ranked as one of the largest arms producing plants in the world.

Refute False Report

Domei

MOSCOW, April 26.—The Soviet Government today denied through the Tass news agency the report by Drew Pearson, American columnist, that the American forces had reached Berlin on April 13 but had withdrawn upon protest by the Soviet forces. The Soviet Government officially denied the report as unfounded.

Mitani in Switzerland

Domei

ZURICH, April 24.—Takanobu Mitani, Japanese Ambassador to France, and his party are at present staying in San Gallen in northeast Switzerland waiting for the Swiss Government to decide on its treatment of the Japanese. A definite place will be designated for them to stay, but it is expected that they will not be allowed to enjoy special privileges as diplomatic envoys.

Soviets Free Herriot

Domei

STOCKHOLM, April 25.—Marshal Gregor Konev's 1st. Ukrainian front army freed former French Premier Edouard Herriot, fighter on the popular front from a prison in west Berlin today, it was announced by the Soviet Information Bureau, according to a Moscow dispatch.

Australian Delegates Oppose Veto Rights For 'Big Five' Powers

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 25.—The Australian delegation to the San Francisco Conference is against the proposals for veto powers enabling the "Big Five" permanent members on the Security Council to prevent enforcement steps against aggressors, according to a San Francisco dispatch. This announcement was made at San Francisco late last night by Herbert V. Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs. "Such Powers," Evatt said, "would prevent joint action by the members of the regional security compact to protect themselves from aggression where the Security Council refused to act."

U.S., BRITAIN STAND PAT ON THORNY POLISH ISSUE

Big 3 Fail to Agree on Interpretation of Decisions Reached at Yalta

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 25.—Sylvain Mangeot, Reuter's diplomatic correspondent in London, today stated that the continuation of the deadlock between the Soviet Union on one hand and Britain and the United States on the other regarding the Polish issue is certainly not regarded in official quarters in London as a "side-issue" to the main task of the San Francisco Conference.

He said that the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the "Big Three" has confirmed the belief that the real difficulty is that the Soviet Union and the Anglo-Americans "interpret quite differently" those parts of the Yalta agreement which deal with the formation of the United Polish Government. Continuing, he said:

"British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and U.S. Secretary of State Edward Stettinius are reported to have been at great pains to leave Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov in no doubt as to exactly what their own interpretation of the Yalta agreement amounts to and to point out that the American and British view was identical on all points.

"The Anglo-American standpoint may be summarized as follows:

"Firstly, the United States and Britain are not prepared to recognize any Polish Government which they cannot accept as truly representative of the Polish people. Secondly, they interpret the Yalta agreement as committing the 'Big Three' to proceed to the organization of talks between the representative Polish leaders including Poles from abroad with a view to setting up an enlarged and representative Polish united Government. Thirdly, they deplore the delay which has elapsed in opening these conversations. Fourthly, they cannot recognize the right of the Provisional Warsaw Government to veto names of Polish leaders from abroad who by terms of the Yalta agreement they feel are entitled to attend these discussions. Fifthly, they are not prepared to invite the Warsaw Provisional Government in its form to San Francisco to represent the Polish people.

"It is thought in London that gists of these points must have been very clearly put to Molotov and that it was explained to him that neither Britain nor the United States felt able to modify their attitude on the questions of principle involved.

"Apart from the immediate effect of the Polish deadlock on the atmosphere of the San Francisco Conference, the Anglo-Americans will, it is believed, continue to press for the holding of talks in Moscow between the representative Poles as originally envisaged in the Yalta communique.

"It may be assumed that Marshal Josef Stalin was already not unaware of the general sense of the interpretation placed by Britain and America upon the Yalta agreement. In any case, a Eden-Stettinius-Molotov meeting will have made the position quite clear. The next move is with Moscow and it is hoped in London that the reply will not be long delayed.

"Semi-official statements from Moscow suggest that the Polish deadlock resolves itself in the last resort into the 'inability among the 'Big Three' to agree on the interpretation of that part of the Yalta agreement which dealt with Poland.'

"A Soviet news agency has attacked 'part of the foreign press' for suggesting it was decided at Yalta that only a representative of the reorganized Polish Government and not of the Provisional Government as it stood should be invited to San Francisco. However, a glance at the Yalta communique makes it clear that although it may be accurate in the most literal sense the Soviet news agency's denial chooses to ignore the main sense of the published conclusions on the Polish question which are perfectly explicit.'

"Delegates of the Warsaw Provisional Government now in Moscow for the signature of the Soviet-Polish Treaty make it clear that there are no apparent intentions to enlarge the present Provisional Government by the inclusion of 'Poles from abroad' as foreseen by the Yalta communique.

"From London, the Arcizewski Government has issued a restatement of its claim to Poland's representation at San Francisco. This document though apparently conciliatory in form in fact contributes nothing constructive toward resolving the present deadlock. It, therefore, appears that Moscow is not waiting for the outcome of the Foreign Ministers talks in the United States before continuing to publicize by every means the arguments for the acceptance of its own interpretation of the Yalta agreement.

"This is the real crux of the question. Was there or was there not a clear agreement reached between the 'Big Three' on the methods to be adopted to solve the Polish problem? If so it is a depressing thought that less than three months after Yalta there should be apparently such a total disagreement as to the letter and the spirit of the Yalta agreement.

S.F. CONFERENCE OPENS; 46 NATIONS PARTICIPATE

Truman Stresses Setting Up Of World Peace Organ in Washington Broadcast

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 25.—The United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco was opened today at 4:30 p.m. (PWT) in the city's Opera House by U.S. Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, temporary chairman of the meeting, who formally convened the conference, according to a San Francisco dispatch.

Forty-six nations were represented at the meeting by about 190 delegates and including their aides and secretaries the total number participating aggregated over 1,200.

President Harry S. Truman formally opened the conference today with the warning to the delegates that "if they fail in their mission, civilization ultimately will be wiped out with increasingly horrible wars."

Speaking through the Washington radio, he called for a world peace machinery which would prevent any nation or group of nations from settling arguments "with bombs and bayonets." Truman said that the delegates have a choice of two alternatives, namely, "continuation of international chaos or the establishment of a world organization for the enforcement of peace—it is not the purpose of this conference to draft a treaty of peace in the old sense of that term. It is not our assignment to settle specific questions of territories, boundaries, citizenship and reparations. Instead the task before the conference is the 'single problem of setting up an essential organization to keep peace."

The delegates of the conference heard him gathered in the Opera House for its initial session. Truman was introduced by Stettinius.

Polish Question Unsolved

Domei

LISBON, April 25.—The "Big Four" sponsoring Powers of the San Francisco Conference convened in a surprise meeting among themselves a few hours before the conference today, according to a San Francisco dispatch.

The "Big Four" conferees met Edward Stettinius, U.S. Secretary of State, in a room of the Fairmont Hotel for 90 minutes. Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov was the first to leave. None of the conferees discussed the meeting beyond saying that they intended to "complete arrangements for the conference." Asked whether it might be assumed that the conferees discussed the Polish question, Chungking Foreign Minister T. V. Soong, Chungking delegate to the conference, said they may "assume nothing." Apparently the Polish question had reached the conference unsolved.

It is learned, meanwhile, that Stettinius had made a complete unpromising report on the Polish question when he arrived from Washington. Other members of the American delegation have stated that "no progress" toward a solution had been made during the preliminary discussions in Washington. It is understood that it seems the Soviet Union is intent on sticking to its demand for their hand-picked Polish Government. An American official even suggested that the Soviets are insisting on seating the Lubliners in order to drive later a bargain on some other subject.

Imperial Audience Granted Chang Ching-hui, Here on Special Mission From Manchoukuo

Prime Minister Chang Ching-hui of Manchoukuo arrived here on Monday to convey to the Imperial House the deep thanks of His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo on the tenth anniversary of His Majesty's visit to Japan in April, 1935, at the same time to express Manchoukuo's unshakable determination to prosecute successfully the War of Greater East Asia and to pay respects to the powerful fighting of the Japanese under the present war situation.

Prime Minister Chang accompanied by Foreign Minister Yuan Chentse and other high Manchoukuo officials proceeded from Haneda Airport on their arrival at 4 p.m. Monday to the Guest Hall.

The Board of Information made the following announcement on Thursday at 7 p.m.:

"Prime Minister Chang Ching-hui of Manchoukuo as Special Ambassador and his party of six arrived in Japan on Monday and was received in audience by His Imperial Majesty to Whom he presented the message from His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo. The present visit being made in commemoration of the first visit to Japan of His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo ten years ago in order to pay respects to the Imperial House and in deep appreciation of the goodwill of Japan while expressing at the same time Manchoukuo's strong determination to prosecute the war."

Pledges Joint War Effort

Prime Minister Chang Ching-hui, following his return from the Imperial Palace, issued the following statement to the press:

"Today, I proceeded to the Imperial Palace and was received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor. When I presented the personal message of His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo, His Imperial Majesty was pleased to grant gracious words.

At the time of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Manchoukuo Empire, I was also received in audience by His Imperial Majesty. At the time when the war situation has grown in intensity and grimness and the enemy air raids have become more frequent, His Imperial Majesty is day and night engaged in heavy military duties, steering the country through the critical times. Nothing surpasses, the gratitude I felt upon finding His Imperial Majesty in the best of health.

"My mission as Special Ambassador to Japan is to present the personal message from His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo to His Imperial Majesty of Japan and at the same time, to express the unswerving determination of my country to prosecute the current war, to the people of Japan. I am firmly confident in final victory of Japan and her allies, should Japan and Manchoukuo, in solid unity, forge ahead throwing everything they have into the struggle against the Anglo-American enemy. No matter how our enemy may pour its material potentialities into the war, I am confident that victory is ours and lasting prosperity assured for Greater East Asia. Upon receiving the greatest honor today, I have doubled my confidence in the successful termination of the current war.

"I will convey my profound feelings to His Imperial Majesty of Manchoukuo and at the same time, to my 45,000,000 fellow-countrymen. I should like to express my resolve to push ahead exerting further efforts to bring the War of Greater East Asia to a successful end."

LATIN AMERICAN MOVES COURTING SOVIETS SEEN

Recent Mexico City Parley Starting Point for Diplomatic Relations

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 26.—Although the question of relations between the Soviet Union and Latin America lay outside the terms of reference of the Mexico City meeting as a prelude to the deliberation at San Francisco, it appears to have been the starting point for several more Latin American moves toward diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, points out the Economist in a recent issue. The article follows:

"So far, Brazil and Venezuela have reported contemplating this step. Until 1943, when Cuba and the Soviet Union exchanged ambassadors, Mexico was the only Latin American country maintaining diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Six of the 20 republics are now doing so, namely, Cuba, Colombia, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Chile, the latter having established relations as recently as last December.

"This change reflects the Soviets enormously enhanced prestige gained during the war. It is only six years ago that the Latin American States played a leading part in expelling the Soviet from the League of Nation over Finland, a humiliation which the Soviet will not lightly forget.

"There are now reports that the Soviet Union is anxious to extend its influence in Latin America through greater Communistic activity. In most Latin American states, however, the party is illegal. It is recognized only in Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, and Cuba, and even in these countries, its activities are limited.

"It helped to shape Chile's popular parties in power under an anti-Communist President. Its influence is stronger in Mexico where, although Communists have no part in the government, the communist influence is strong in Mexican trade unions. The community of interest between Mexico and the Soviet is based more on trade than on political doctrine.

"Since Brazil's trade with the Soviet has shown recent signs of development, it is likely that in opening diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union for the first time, President Vargas was influenced by the same motives, he may also see some advantage in offering this bait to Leftist elements in the event of his either convening or postponing the promised presidential elections."

OIL, RUBBER SHORTAGES WORRYING U.S. LEADERS

WPB Troubled by Inability of Production to Meet Military Requirements

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 23.—In spite of the repeated boasts of American war leaders that the United States was virtually an inexhaustible arsenal of food and materials, Julius Krug, Chairman of the War Production Board, recently admitted that "we have scraped the bottom of the barrel in several respects," according to the Economist, which states that after steel, coal, food and aluminum, crude oil is America's latest shortage. Although production is at its peak, it cannot meet the ever-increasing demands in Europe and in the Pacific. Production is said to be about 300,000 barrels a day, against the military requirements of 5,000,000 barrels daily.

The Economist continues:

To maintain even the present production, the Petroleum Administration for War (PAW) estimates that 27,000 new oil wells are needed and steel tubing too, which is essential for rocket bombs artillery and shell programs is scarce. A partial solution would be to ship crude oil to the United States refineries from the Caribbean area, particularly from Venezuela which alone is said to have a potential output of 1,000,000 barrels a day. But this potential output is not available in 1945.

"Meanwhile, the production of 100 octane aviation petrol continues to rise. When the United States started to prepare for war the rate of production was 46,000 barrels a day. Now the 600,000 mark has been passed. The demand for this aircraft oil is so great and rising so fast that five new plants will have to be put under construction with the approval of the PAW to fill the long range military estimates.

"Another headache for Krug, is synthetic rubber. In 1942, 96 per cent of the rubber used in the United States was natural rubber. During 1945, however, natural rubber will constitute only 15 per cent of the total. The Rubber Reserve Corporation, says that a sharp increase in the 1945-1946 program is necessary to meet military and essential civilian requirements. One million tons are scheduled for 1945 but 58 per cent above the 1944 production can be reached only if adequate supplies of petroleum, alcohol, and chemicals are made available, if certain plant improvements are made, and if an ample body of skilled men is made available."

3 ARMY OFFICERS GRANTED CITATIONS FOR BRAVERY

Zama, Sugiyama Rammed Warcraft Off Sumatra: Fujii Fought in Burma

The granting of a citation by Field Marshal Count Hisaichi Terauchi, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army Forces in the Southern Area, to Lieutenant Shigenobu Zama, and Sublieutenant Tatsusaku Sugiyama of the Shichisho Shoken Special Attack Air Unit, who rendered outstanding services in ramming attacks against the British task forces that attacked the northern part of Sumatra Island on April 11 this year, has now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor, it was announced by the War Ministry on Thursday. Text of the announcement follows:

"To Lieutenant Shigenobu Zama and Sublieutenant Tatsusaku Sugiyama of the Shichisho Shoken Unit of the Special Attack Air Corps who distinguished themselves in launching ramming attacks against the British task forces that assaulted the northern part of Sumatra Island on April 11, 1945, a citation had previously been granted by the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army Forces in the Southern Area, and this fact has now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor."

CITATION

Lieutenant Shigenobu Zama and Sublieutenant Tatsusaku Sugiyama of the Shichisho Shoken Unit.

Attacking the enemy task forces that assaulted the northern part of Sumatra Island on April 11 this year, the above with the iron determination of accomplishing their mission with their lives advanced to the skies over their objective and, braving a rain of bullets and defying the resistance of enemy planes, carried out gallant ramming attacks, sinking two large warships. Thus, they fully accomplished their mission.

This is due to their loyalty and patriotism and is a manifestation of the spirit of the Imperial Forces. Their military achievements are outstanding. Wherefore a citation is hereby issued and notified to the entire Army.

April 21, 1945,
Hisaichi Terauchi,
Commander-in-Chief of the
Japanese Army Forces in
the Southern Area.

The issuance of another citation by the same Commander-in-Chief to Major Tatsujiro Fujii, the Commander of an Army Air Unit who rendered meritorious military services in the operations in the Burma area as well as in escorting important convoys, has also been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor, the War Ministry announced the same day. The announcement follows:

"To Major Tatsujiro Fujii, the Commander of an Air Unit who rendered meritorious military achievements with his excelled supervision in every battle in the operations in the Burma area as well as in escorting important convoys, a citation had previously been granted by the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army Forces in the Southern Area, and this fact has now been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor."

CITATION

Major Tatsujiro Fujii

Ever since arriving at his post, the above as the Commander of an Air Unit, with burning fighting spirit and excelled martial skill, rendered brilliant military achievements either in annihilating the enemy air and sea power or in cooperating with the Japanese Land Forces in the Burma area.

Furthermore, he had accomplished the difficult duty of escorting convoys for a long period since the early part of this year. On March 28 he directly escorted an important convoy in the face of the resistance put up by powerful enemy bomber and fighter plane formations and carried out a heroic self-blasting operation. In the meantime, the Unit under his command obtained tremendous battle results by shooting down, damaging or setting ablaze 237 hostile planes, sinking or damaging four enemy warships including cruisers, as well as blowing up 500 tanks and other vehicles.

All these achievements were due to the Major's supervision and excellent ability. These exploits are particularly outstanding. Wherefore a citation is hereby issued and notified to the entire Army.

April 21, 1945,
Hisaichi Terauchi,
Commander-in-Chief of the
Japanese Army Forces in
the Southern Area.

Manchoukuo Premier Presents Soy Beans To Air Raid Sufferers

Prime Minister Chang Ching-hui of Manchoukuo, who has been visiting Japan in the capacity of special Ambassador, called upon Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Prime Minister's official residence and promised to present 30,000 tons of soy beans and 2,500 tons of salt as a token of Manchoukuo's sympathy toward the air raid victims.

IZVESTIA MAKES COMMENT ON BATTLE FOR OKINAWA

Emphasizes Importance of Fighting, Advantageous Position of Japan

Domei

MOSCOW, April 24.—Emphasizing the importance of the Okinawa battle, and particularly the advantageous position of Japan in this battle, the April 18 issue of the Soviet Government organ, the Izvestia, carries the following article.

"American forces, after landing on the main Okinawa Island, advanced to the east shore of the island by April 8, separating the Japanese Forces to the south and to the north. The resistance of the Japanese having become extremely strong of late, however, the speed of the American advance has been greatly lowered. By April 12, the Americans had occupied one-fourth of the main Okinawa Island and were pressing toward Naha, but the Japanese countered by taking advantage of dark nights, and using small warships and transports, sending reinforcements from Amami-Oshima; further, from Amami-Oshima, the Japanese coast defense forces and air units are continuing attacks on the American fleets.

"The situation in the various Okinawa Islands is not very clear at present. It is evident, however, that fierce air and sea battles are being fought between the Japanese and American forces, and that both sides are suffering great losses. Apparently the British Pacific Fleet is participating in the battle.

"Though numerically the Japanese is inferior to the anti-Axis fleets, the Japanese Forces occupy an extremely advantageous position compared to that of the anti-Axis forces. The scene of the present fighting is within the operating zone of the Japanese naval and air bases. The distance from Sasebo, principal base of the Japanese Fleet, to Okinawa is about 330 nautical miles, while the distance from the Mariana and Saipan bases of the American forces is more than 1,500 nautical miles. Although the Japanese are able to send land planes to Okinawa within a few hours via Kyushu, the anti-Axis forces are only able to use in the fighting area deck-planes from aircraft carriers or planes from occupied land bases.

"The situation in the Okinawa area cannot be hastily judged, but it is quite clear that the anti-Axis sea and air forces are meeting fierce resistance from the Japanese air and sea units. Japan is fully aware that if the main Okinawa Island or the other Ryukyu Islands are lost, she would be faced with a serious crisis. That is to say, if the anti-Axis forces are able to gain the main Okinawa island, it would become possible for them to advance not only to the southwestern defense line of Japan, but also to threaten to cut off the important sea transportation lines of Japan through the Eastern China sea and the straits of Tsushima and Chosen. Further, Okinawa islands in anti-Axis hands would become footholds for invasion of the coast of China or of Japan Proper. These facts clearly indicate how seriously the outcome of the Okinawa battle would affect Japan."

Army Promotions Bared

Colonels Isamu Nakano, Isamu Hamada, Kumpei Ida, and Kin Eguchi have been posthumously promoted to the rank of major general, the War Ministry announced on Wednesday. Major General Nakano hails from Ishikawa Prefecture. He was killed in action as a Unit Commander on January 4 this year in the Southern Regions. Major General Hamada comes from Kochi Prefecture. He died in action on January 12 in the Southern Regions. Major General Ida as a Unit Commander met heroic death on February 2 in the Southern Regions. He hails from Fukuoka Prefecture. Major General Eguchi as a staff member of the Nagoya Divisional Headquarters was killed on March 25 when enemy planes raided the Nagoya district.

REINFORCEMENTS SENT TO INVADERS ON OKINAWA

Hard Hit Enemy Preparing New Offensive; Nippon Fliers Continue Attacks

Except for the fierce counter-attacking battles that took place at some points, no change of any importance occurred in the war situation on the southern front of the main Okinawa island during the past day or so.

After having sustained tremendous personnel and material losses, the U.S. invasion troops, on a line extending from a hilly sector northeast of Onaga to a point north of Gusukuma through the areas south of Nishibaru and Kakazu, are now making strenuous efforts to reinforce their strength in preparation for a fresh onward drive.

A fleet of small barges are being used by the Americans to send reinforcements to the main Okinawa island. They were busy unloading troops and war materials at a point in the neighborhood of Minatogawa about one kilometer west of Makiminato.

On the other hand, the Japanese Special Attack Corps are endlessly continuing their death-defying action against the enemy task forces around the main Okinawa island and are inflicting staggering blows upon the hostile surface units.

Bombard West Coast

Domei

SOUTHWESTERN ISLANDS, April 24.—The enemy fleet is still active in the waters around the main Okinawa Island. Yesterday afternoon part of this fleet began bombarding the western coast of the southern part of the main island. The total number of enemy planes that raided the Okinawa front this day was 310.

During the afternoon of April 22, a unit of the Special Attack Corps attacked enemy vessels northeast of the main island and set ablaze over two warships of unidentified category.

Furthermore, on the same afternoon, Japanese Air Units attacked one large enemy transport in the sea near the Kerama Islands and set it ablaze. Then, early yesterday morning, Japanese Garrison Forces sank one enemy destroyer after concentrated artillery firing when the enemy fleet entered Nakagusuku Bay.

SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES BIG FOR U.S. NAVY IN PACIFIC

Domei

LISBON, April 23.—The U.S. Navy Department in a special announcement yesterday described the difficulties and the enormous task faced by its supply system in the Pacific —the omnipresent problem taxing leaders of America's naval operations in the Pacific, according to a Washington dispatch.

The backbone of the navy's supply system is engaged in delivering an uninterrupted flow of men, material and weapons direct from the farms and factories to the fighting fronts and to the fleet's advanced bases of which there are over 300 scattered throughout the world.

The navy's announcement stressed that the "immensity of the network can be judged from the fact that distances in the Pacific have cut supply ships down to three round trips annually. Its complexity appears in the fact that the flow of materials involves roughly 5,000,000 elements ranging from cereal to the latest floating drydock, from heavy machinery taking over two years to build to items that can be made in one day.

"Mobility of the fleet—thousands of miles from home bases—is directly dependent on the flow of supplies, on advance base and surface service units that operate between the advance base and fighting lines."

The announcement added that several new types of repair ships had been developed for advanced service and that floating drydocks of different sizes had enabled the fleet to keep on the move without returning to the home bases for complicated repairs.

Mongolia Donates Goods

Domei

KALGAN, April 27.—As a token of heartfelt sympathy of the people of Mongolia toward the raid victims of Japan, Prince Teh, President of the Federated Autonomous Government of Mongolia, has telegraphed Welfare Minister Tadahiko Okada, chairman of the War Victims Relief Organization, of the decision to make a gift of fabricated goods, cotton material, blankets and running shoes. These are part of the goods which are to be rationed to the people of Mongolia but have been voluntarily given up by them to be presented to the raid sufferers.

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For the Sake of Appearance

When Congressman James Wadsworth of New York declared in the House of Representatives a few days ago that the United States should take over permanent and outright possession of the strategic islands of the Pacific, it is reported that he was greeted with vigorous applause. "I am not captivated by the idea that the United States should hold as 'trustee' for the other Allied nations the territory which we have won with our treasure and our blood," he is reported to have said. Congressman Joseph Mansfield also added his voice to the demand for the outright annexation of these islands by the United States, declaring with simple candor that "we should keep them under our flag so that our future in the Pacific will be secured."

These statements at least have the merit of being honest. There has been no question that the United States is motivated by a lust for imperialistic expansion toward the Orient in waging the present war. All of her actions, such as her determination to restore her oppressive domination over the Philippines, her machinations to extend her economic and political intervention into China, and her persistent attempt to oppose Japan's championship of the freedom and independence of Asia, amply prove the sinister character of the American ambitions. But in their official statements, the American authorities, while hinting broadly enough at their country's boundless ambitions, have always tried to throw up the dissimulating smoke screen of idealistic and altruistic professions.

Simple congressmen like Wadsworth and Mansfield, not being experienced diplomats or propagandists, have however gone straight to the heart of the matter and have revealed the true ambitions of the American nation. And that their forthright expression of the crude lust of the American nation represents the overwhelming sentiments of the public is shown by the fact that their statements were greeted with noisy acclaim.

Pundit Walter Lippmann deplores such crudities, however. Outright seizure of these Pacific islands would be a violation of the principles of the Atlantic Charter, he avers. The United States should not stoop to such an action. Can it be that Lippmann is susceptible to a twinge of conscience, that he is sensitive to considerations of principle? He quickly disabuses his readers of such doubts. The arch-advocate and apostle of America's modern imperialism emphatically shows that he is ever true to his loudly proclaimed faith in the American destiny to control all the world. But being a more subtle intellectual than the forthright politicians, he warns that openly disclosing America's ambitions would not be politic. It would stir up too much antagonism even from America's allies. It is no more a matter of principle with him than with the politicians; it is simply a matter of expediency. But he does possess a greater consciousness of expediency than the single-tracked politicians.

By advocating this concession to expediency, Lippmann tacitly recognizes that even America's allies have good reasons to view her ambitions with alarm. By what right does the United States presume to enjoy a claim on the exclusive control of the Pacific? If the United States thinks that she needs the strategic Pacific islands for her own interests, other nations must have equal rights arising from equal needs. The needs and claims of some of America's allies like Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, and the Netherlands might indeed be better founded than America's, for these countries have been longer in the Pacific area and their interests are more completely identified in this region.

In fact, genuinely apprehensive of the aggressiveness of the United States in the Pacific area, the representatives of the British dominions meeting in a Commonwealth Conference at London recently strongly advocated the establishment of a "Pacific Advisory Council" which would maintain a system of joint trusteeship over the Pacific islands and restrain America's ambitions for exclusive domination. In deference to this formidable opposition, Lippmann holds that acquiescence in the idea of a trusteeship would be the most expedient compromise for the United States. It does not mean that the United States would give up her ambition for exclusive control, however; it would be only for the sake of appearance.

Despite Lippmann's advice American ambitions, pushed by the ruthless exuberance of the American people, threaten to break out of control. In the House Appropriation Committee, the scheduled discussion of the naval appropriations bill was completely overshadowed by a clamorous discussion of positive steps to take over without restriction the coveted islands of the Pacific. The members of the committee privately admitted that "the turn of the House debate would strengthen the position of the naval officials when the time comes to determine what shall be done with the islands." Legislation for outright annexation is reported to be awaiting the committee's action, and backers of this legislation have openly declared that if the trend toward mere trusteeship should show signs of strength, they would demand immediate congressional action to forestall it.

Thus there can be no getting away from the fact that America is dominated by an insatiable lust for imperial expansion. Lippmann's counsel of dissimulative restraint, even for the sake of mere appearance, is likely to go unheeded in the face of the unabashed greed for power. It is a manifestation of the doctrine of naked force, of possession by right of conquest, of the idea that might makes right. The true heart of avaricious and unprincipled America is being clearly revealed, whatever feeble hypocritical concessions are made for the sake of appearance.

A Year Ago Today

April 27, 1944

The Burmese Council approved with partial approval the second budget of Burma since its independence. The budget estimate for the current fiscal year beginning April places the country's revenue at 69,000,000 rupees and expenditures at 250,000,000.

* * *

Prime Minister William Mackenzie King of Canada and Prime Minister Peter Frazer of New Zealand both arrived in London to attend the Prime Ministers' Conference, according to a London dispatch. Frazer upon landing in England significantly declared that the "Dominions are not going to be led by any decisions of this conference."

* * *

Another disguised casualty list was announced by U.S. Secretary of War Henry Stimson, according to a Washington dispatch. The announcement revealed that United States army casualties totaled 148,425 which included 25,582 killed, 60,166 wounded, 32,727 missing and 29,950 taken prisoners.

* * *

Francis Biddle, U.S. Attorney-General, assumed personal control of the Montgomery Ward plant, one of the largest mail-order department stores in the world, where a strike has continued for more than two weeks, according to a Chicago report. He has called an immediate conference of Government officials to consider the operation of the plant, the report added.

* * *

Members of the House of Peers and the Houses of Representatives were hosts at a joint luncheon given in honor of the visiting Philippine Special Mission at 12:30 p.m. at the Members' Dining Room within the Imperial Diet building. In welcoming the Special Mission, Speaker Okada paid his profound respect to the constant and strenuous efforts the members of the Mission are making toward the growth of the Republic of the Philippines.

SAN FRANCISCO MEETING SAID TEST FOR TRUMAN

President's Ability to Hold Own Against Churchill, Stalin Is Question

The United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco will be President Harry Truman's test, says an article in the Asahi, which goes on to express the view that Truman's strong inclination toward conservatism will undo himself in the long run. The article follows:

"April 12 witnessed the commencement of a new regime in the United States under Harry Truman, following the abrupt death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Ten days have elapsed since Truman, the 33rd Chief Executive of the United States, entered the White House. But the uncertainty felt by the American people regarding the future of their country under their new President, who has hitherto been relatively little known to them, shows no signs of decreasing. On the contrary, there is a notable tendency for this uncertainty to increase.

"The uneasiness is not confined to America. It is evident that the other anti-Axis countries which used to place great reliance on Roosevelt, also have misgivings.

"President Truman attended a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives on April 16 and took the occasion to enunciate his guiding principles in the discharge of his Presidential duties. With regard to his attitude toward the war, he stressed that Japan and Germany shall surrender unconditionally. As to his postwar policy, he said that he would work for closer cooperation among the nations of the world and for an increase in the world's living standard under a new international order. In short, he had nothing to say other than that he would adopt his predecessor's policies.

Truman Sober, Sincere

"The Washington correspondent of the Neue Zurcher Zeitung, a Swiss newspaper, reports that the new American President is favorably received by the American people as a whole. The correspondent explains that President Truman has not the eloquence of his predecessor, but is regarded as having the qualities of sobriety and sincerity.

"'A report said that there were 348 newspapermen present at President Truman's first White House press conference. The conference, according to the same report, was a wonderful success. The newspapermen present are said to have received the impression that President Truman is clear-minded and decisive. It seems that the newspapermen arrived at this conclusion about their new President from the bombastic reply that even Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Commissar, will come to pay his respects to the American President, to a question posed by them.

"'There are two reasons for Truman's favorable first impressions on his countrymen. In the first place, there is the Yankee disposition to delight in rare or new things. Secondly, the Americans wanted to say some things which would please their new President. Still another factor in the enthusiasm with which the Americans welcomed their new President, was the necessity they felt for showing the world that they are united under their new President.

"'But the fact remains that the Americans as a whole are inwardly uncertain about their new inexperienced President.'

"Roy Roberts, Chief Editor of the Kansas City Star, a friend of President Truman, who once worked on the paper, says:

Extremely Conservative

"'Truman is not so cautious a man as Calvin Coolidge, the 30th American President, who became President following the death from sickness of President Warren G. Harding under whom he was Vice President. He is extremely conservative, as people from Missouri usually are.

"'Roosevelt was extreme in ideas, and the influence he wielded in the eastern States was overwhelming. There is no doubt that henceforth there will be an increase in the voice of the western and southern States in national affairs.

"'Truman is bashful, but does not become frightened. His weakness is that he has no understanding of the way in which the populace feels. I am afraid that this will be a drawback when he grapples with the labor problem which will come to the fore in the days to come. It is clear that an increasing number of observers in America are getting apprehensive lest there should be an aggravation of the labor problem in the near future.'

"Roberts went on to say:

"'Truman says that he will adopt the Roosevelt's policies. Certainly, he is a wise man. But he cannot be without a policy of his own for an indefinite period. I take it that it will not be long before the conservatism of Truman will assert itself.

"'Unlike Roosevelt who was a bit of an extremist, Truman is conservative, and this is the very reason why he has become President. But in his Cabinet there are men with extreme ideas. There is Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace, who was formerly Vice-President. There are others, who like Wallace consider themselves the legitimate upholders of the New Deal. This and other indications point to the possibility of the gap between the progressive and the conservative elements in the Democratic Party widening as time passes. It happens that the air is thick with rumors of the impending resignations of Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. This suggests that America will be confronted with extremely difficult domestic problems in the near future.

"No noticeable change will come about in the foreign policy of the United States under the Truman regime, although it is expected that the Isolationists will increase their influence to some extent. That is to say that America will continue to dream of dominating the world with her dollar policy.

"But however loyal President Truman may be to the Roosevelt policies, he cannot hope to make a success of it unless he has the wisdom, the skill, and the experience of Roosevelt. It happens that he is mediocre in these qualities compared to his predecessor.

"There is no doubt that the United Nations Conference on International Organization will be a test of President Truman's diplomatic skill.

S.F. Meet Vexes Truman

"Roy Roberts concluded that the San Francisco Conference is a really vexing event for President Truman. It is because of this that President Truman has left the San Francisco Conference entirely in the hands of the Secretary of State and other members of the American delegation to the Conference.

"Following the death of Roosevelt, the Soviet Government replaced Andrei Gromyko, Ambassador to America, by Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov as head of the Soviet delegation to the San Francisco Conference. There are conflicting reports about the possible object of the Soviet Union in making the change. One of them declares that there is an intention on the part of the Soviet Union to get the Provisional Government in Poland admitted to the Conference and to settle the Polish question once and for all. It will not be surprising if at a time when Roosevelt, sponsor and virtual promoter of the San Francisco Conference, is no more, the Soviet Union will try to wrest from America the power to influence the course of events at the Conference.

"Is President Truman able enough to hold his ground against Premier Josef Stalin and Prime Minister Winston Churchill? That is the question.

"Roy Roberts, friend of Truman, said that the President might contrive to feel happy during the next six months, but thereafter he would begin to meet with real difficulties."

News and Views

The Polish Trade

The incident already reported some time ago of the sudden disappearance of 15 exiled Polish Government leaders in London, though highly sensationalized in the atmosphere of a detective story, was essentially a trivial incident in itself with no more news value than a little far fetched episode. It did incite curiosity, however, at the time when the Polish Ministry of Information at London announced that 14 of the ex-Polish Government and army leaders under General Okulicki, including Vitos, leader of the Polish Peasant Party, were carried away by a Soviet secret agency.

The story was so unreal as it was reported from London. The kidnapping in broad daylight of 15 men well established in the metropolis of London, though belonging to an exile regime, is not a thing to pass without sensation and intense public curiosity. It would have been different if the incident took place in some small state which is adjacent to the Soviet border, and whose border line is perpetually threatened, as for example in the Balkan States or the Middle East or West Asia. But the theater of that uncanny incident happened to be London, the capital of a major power of the world, most remotely situated in Europe from Russia and surrounded by the sea.

One has to believe either of the two, which are both incredible to normal common sense: that is, either the veracity of the story itself, or the complete absence of policing system or power in London. If the story is to pass as true, it can only be an astounding revelation of the incredible state of chaos prevailing in London.

The only logical thing to do is to question the source of that incredible information, namely, the Polish Ministry of Information, which represents the will of the Polish exile regime in London. The Polish account said that the said 15 officials received an invitation "signed by Colonel Pimonov of the Soviet Political Police on behalf of General Ivanov asking them to come to a meeting with the latter, stressing the unconditional necessity and the exceptional importance of their meeting." The report is clearly intended for the "effect" by omitting one important fact, namely, that the matter was arranged with the approval of the British Government itself.

That the whole thing was a political transaction between the Kremlin and London is amply borne out in the statement of the British Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Richard Law, on April 18 in which he admitted that certain negotiations had been carried out between a part of the exile Polish regime, plus the underground Polish organization, on the one hand, and the Soviet Government on the other, saying that the British Government had no reason to oppose the Soviet action if it is to substantiate the terms of the Crimean decision. The British Government then found no necessity of opposing the 15 Polish Government officials being taken out of London into Soviet territory "in order to help substantiate the common objective of the Crimean parley."

It was none other than the exile Polish regime in London that gave twist and color to that simple political procedure that was the only thing it could do to give vent to its venom and bitterness of not being able to tackle openly the British and Soviet Governments which trade in Poland and Polish affairs.

Sent Note to U.S.

But the interest of the question lies not in solving the mystery make-up of this little incident, but in the future consequence of it. The Soviet Government carried out what it wanted by resorting to an act which the British Government "finds no necessity to oppose:" by soliciting with forceful measure the "cooperation" of the 15 ex-Polish leaders whose inclusion was needed to broaden and give an appearance of authority to the Provisional Polish Government at Warsaw. Thus did the Soviet successfully live up to the Crimean terms. And on the strength of it, the Soviet Government sent a notice to Edward Stettinius, U.S. Secretary of State, requesting the latter to extend a formal invitation to the Warsaw regime to attend the San Francisco Conference as the legal Polish delegation.

The Soviet request was kicked by Washington, on the ground that the United States Government was unable to recognize the Soviet measure as a satisfactory method to substantiate the terms of the Crimean decision. It was the first open refusal of Washington to recognize Warsaw as the orthodox representative of Poland.

In whichever justice may lie, or may not lie at all, is not the subject that interests us. To discuss "justice" in connection with a set of two countries whose relationship can only be adjusted by constant underground dealings and mutual hoodwinking is an act of imbecility as well as impossibility like an attempt to grade the blackness of one crow from another.

The future development of this issue is worth watching after this open American challenge to the Soviet authority. Britain respected it enough to have taken an attitude of tacit approval toward the Soviet liberty with the Poles. But the United States contradicts. That is the situation right now, but it won't stay so very long, so long as it is the Soviet Union and its national pride prestige that is being involved.

PRESS COMMENTS

Thursday, April 26

'FRISCO CONFERENCE

ASAHI—The anti-Axis Powers are claiming that the San Francisco Parley is a world conference to discuss the postwar international peace organization. However, it has already been pointed out by many critics that, in spite of the fact that some 40-odd countries are taking part in the meeting, the true meaning of this conference is to be found in its being a product chiefly of the imperialistic American ambitions, and in its being a 'battlefield' for the Soviet Union to carry on her political struggle against the Anglo-American nations.

The advance skirmishes of this struggle have already been carried on since before the opening of the conference. The problem concerning participation of the Provisional Government of Poland and the Soviet demand concerning the number of votes still remain unsolved.

In this connection, great significance is also being attached to the fact that, with a certain instability having arisen in America's international policies on account of the sudden death of Roosevelt, the Soviet Union hurriedly decided on dispatching Foreign Commissar Molotov. Probably, in connection with the views and actions of the Soviet Union, the conference will not be able to avoid certain conflicts.

It is impossible to understand the issue of the world peace structure, forming the main theme of the San Francisco Conference, separately from U.S. world policies. But why is America thus enthusiastic about the organization of world peace? Of course this is not because America has hitherto been a lover of peace. World peace as advocated by America lays its foundation on the union of all "democratic" countries and on the principles of self-determination and freedom of trade. The purpose of this is always the maintenance of liberalistic economy and the organization corresponding to it because this is the only means of organizing the world for the purposes of U.S. economy, and of preventing a political reform of the world.

Yet, at the same time, this reveals the limitations of U.S. world politics; and it shows the gap for the Soviet Union to get in. If we remember that following the first World War a clash occurred between the Wilson formula and the Lenin formula; then, the historical reality cannot be lost sight of that those two formulas are now again facing one another, having developed into the Roosevelt formula and the Stalin formula.

There is little room for doubt but that the planned world peace machinery is to be an organ for compromise on the one hand, and for a struggle on the other, between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.

Moreover, the foundation of collaboration between them is bound to crumble rapidly in the future. American collaboration with the Soviet Union, in short, means political surrender on the part of the United States. It is also for this reason that the United States is very anxious to form an encirclement ring against the Soviet Union within the world peace machinery.

As to the Soviet Union, how long will she be able to continue her international Popular Front policy? It will be possible to adjust the form of the peace structure, but solution of the existing complicated and intricate international issues will be impossible. No one in the world expects a solution of the political troubles of Europe, the stabilization of East Asia including China and India, and the world colony problem, within the frame of U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. collaboration. It is rather safe to say that the world peace structure will open a path to future world disturbances based on the U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. struggle.

However, the fact must be recognized that since the beginning of this century, the problem of a unified world organization has become the central issue of international politics. The world is moving on a large scale. Our country, which resolutely declares that unified organization of the world through U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. collaboration is absolutely impossible, must at the same time give an answer to the problem as to the direction into which the affairs of this world should be steered.

The standpoint of our country that without a new order and stability of East Asia no world peace can be established is absolutely right. But it is obvious that without gaining victory in this war, our country cannot become the world peace advocator in the place of America and Britain. This we keenly feel in facing the opening of the San Francisco Conference.

ENEMY ADMITS JUSTNESS OF JOINT DECLARATION

Conclusion Drawn by Iguchi From Lack of Comment On Tokyo Parley

Enemy silence on the Greater East Asiatic Ambassadors' Conference held in Tokyo on Monday was attributed by Sadao Iguchi, Spokesman of the Board of Information, to the very trueness and justness of the guiding principles adopted at the meeting.

Mr. Iguchi, at his foreign press conference on Wednesday, declared that the absence of enemy comments or criticisms showed clearly that the guiding principles of the conference were above reproach. "They are so true and just that even the enemy cannot refute or deny them," Mr. Iguchi said. He recalled that this was the same as in the case of the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations, which was held the year before last.

Revealing further details concerning the relief ship Awa Maru which was illegally sunk by a United States submarine on April 1, Mr. Iguchi said that the ship was known to have been carrying a considerable number of passengers including numerous women and children. He said that the list of survivors, requested by the Japanese Government from the United States Government, had not yet arrived, however.

Mr. Iguchi told the correspondents that when the report of the unlawful sinking was first received there was the view naturally expressed in some quarters that the deliveries of the relief supplies be suspended until a satisfactory settlement of the case. Despite this, however, Mr. Iguchi disclosed, the headquarters of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in the Southern Regions has sent instructions to all internment camp authorities concerned that deliveries of the relief supplies be carried out as soon as possible from a humanitarian point of view. Mr. Iguchi said that instructions were being duly carried out.

Hurley Reaches Chungking

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 22.—Major General Patrick Hurley, United States Ambassador to Chungking, returned to Chungking this afternoon after an absence of two and a half months during which time he conferred with high ranking officials in Washington and paid a four-day visit to Moscow, according to a Chungking dispatch. Meanwhile, a Washington report said that Lieutenant Colonel Le Moore has been assigned to work with Hurley and that Le Moore is already on his way to Chungking.

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